



केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड

(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संगठन)

CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

(An Autonomous Organisation Under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)



CBSE/SE/Green-Diwali/2026

22.10.2026

NOTIFICATION

To
The Heads of all CBSE Affiliated Schools

Subject: Nationwide Green Diwali Campaign 2026 – "Say No to Crackers, Yes to Clean Air"

In alignment with the letter received from the WWF-India EIACP Programme Centre (Resource Partner supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India), it is requested to all affiliated schools to actively participate and facilitate the nationwide Green Diwali Campaign 2026.

The campaign is being conducted from 20th October to 8th November 2026 across all States and Union Territories. It aims to encourage students, teachers, and educational institutions to celebrate a Swachh, Shubh, and Green Diwali by avoiding firecrackers, reducing air pollution, and adopting environmentally responsible practices in alignment with Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment). Special emphasis is placed on schools located within the 130 non-attainment cities covered under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

School heads are requested to organize the following activities and disseminate the campaign posters and materials via school websites, newsletters, and digital notice boards immediately:

1. **The Green Diwali Pledge:** Conduct cracker-free pledge ceremonies during school assemblies.
2. **Awareness Programs:** Engage students and staff in environmental defense initiatives.
3. **Carbon Footprint Survey:** Ensure participation in the WWF-India Survey at https://wwfindiawebgis.in/Carbon_Footprint/Carbon_Footprint.html.
4. **Activity Reporting:** Submit execution details and geo-tagged photos via the official Google Form at link https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15hDbjbqZzeo68kNjAxeHQA_SMIQ7IUIPdvCli-gvwdY/viewform

Biswajit Saha

Dr. Biswajit Saha
Professor & Director (Skill Education)

Enclosures:

1. Green Diwali Campaign Poster
2. Map showing the geographical distribution of 130 NCAP non-attainment cities, prepared by WWF-India EIACP PC-RP

Copy to the respective Heads of Directorates, Organizations, and Institutions as indicated below with a request to disseminate the information to all the schools under their jurisdiction

1. The Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, 18, Institutional Area, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, Delhi-110016
2. The Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, B-15, Sector-62, Institutional Area, Noida-201309.
3. The Director of Education, Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Old Secretariat, Delhi- 110054



एकीकृत कार्यालय परिसर, सेक्टर - 23, फेज-I, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली – 110077

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4. The Director of Public Instructions (Schools), Union Territory Secretariat, Sector- 9 Chandigarh – 160017
5. The Director of Education, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok, Sikkim – 737101
6. The Director of School Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar - 791 111
7. The Director of Education, Govt. of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Port Blair – 744111
8. The Director, Central Tibetan School Administration, ESSESS Plaza, Community Centre, Sector 3, Rohini, New Delhi
9. The Secretary, Sainik Schools Society, Room No.101, D-1 Wing, Sena Bhawan, New Delhi
10. The Additional Director, General of Army Education, A – Wing, Sena Bhawan, DHQ, PO, New Delhi – 110001
11. The Secretary, AWES, Integrated Headquarters of MoD (Army), FDRC Building No. 202, Shankar Vihar (Near APS), Delhi Cantt – 110010
12. The Secretary, Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.
13. The Chairman, Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan, N-1/9, Near Doordarshan Kendra, PO Sainik School Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751005.
14. The Joint Secretary to Chairperson, CBSE - for kind information of the Chairperson, CBSE
15. All the Heads of Department of the Board.
16. All the Regional Directors/Regional Officers/Head-COE's, CBSE with the request to send this circular to all the Heads of the affiliated schools of the Board in their respective regions for compliance.
17. Joint Director (Media & Public Relations), CBSE for wider publicity of the notification
18. Deputy Secretary (IT), CBSE, Dwarka with the request to upload this notification on the CBSE Academic website.
19. Incharge, Hindi Cell, CBSE HQ – for Hindi Translation of this notification

Professor & Director (Skill Education)



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PRESS RELEASE

Say No to Crackers, Yes to Clean Air: WWF-India EIACP Calls for a Cracker-Free Green Diwali 2026 Across All States and UTs

Nationwide campaign from 20 October to 8 November 2026 urges citizens, schools and colleges to take the Green Diwali Pledge against firecrackers for better air quality, better health and a pollution-free environment

New Delhi, 20 October 2026: WWF-India's Programme Centre – Resource Partner (PC-RP) under the Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP), supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), is running a nationwide Green Diwali Campaign 2026 from 20 October to 8 November 2026 across all States and Union Territories. The campaign calls on every citizen to stop bursting firecrackers and celebrate a Swachh, Shubh and Green Diwali, in line with the Government of India's Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).

The campaign will reach schools, colleges, educational institutions, resident welfare associations and local communities in all States and UTs, with a special focus on the 130 cities covered under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Its central message is simple: a Diwali without crackers is a Diwali with cleaner air, healthier families and a safer environment.

Why Crackers Harm Our Air and Health

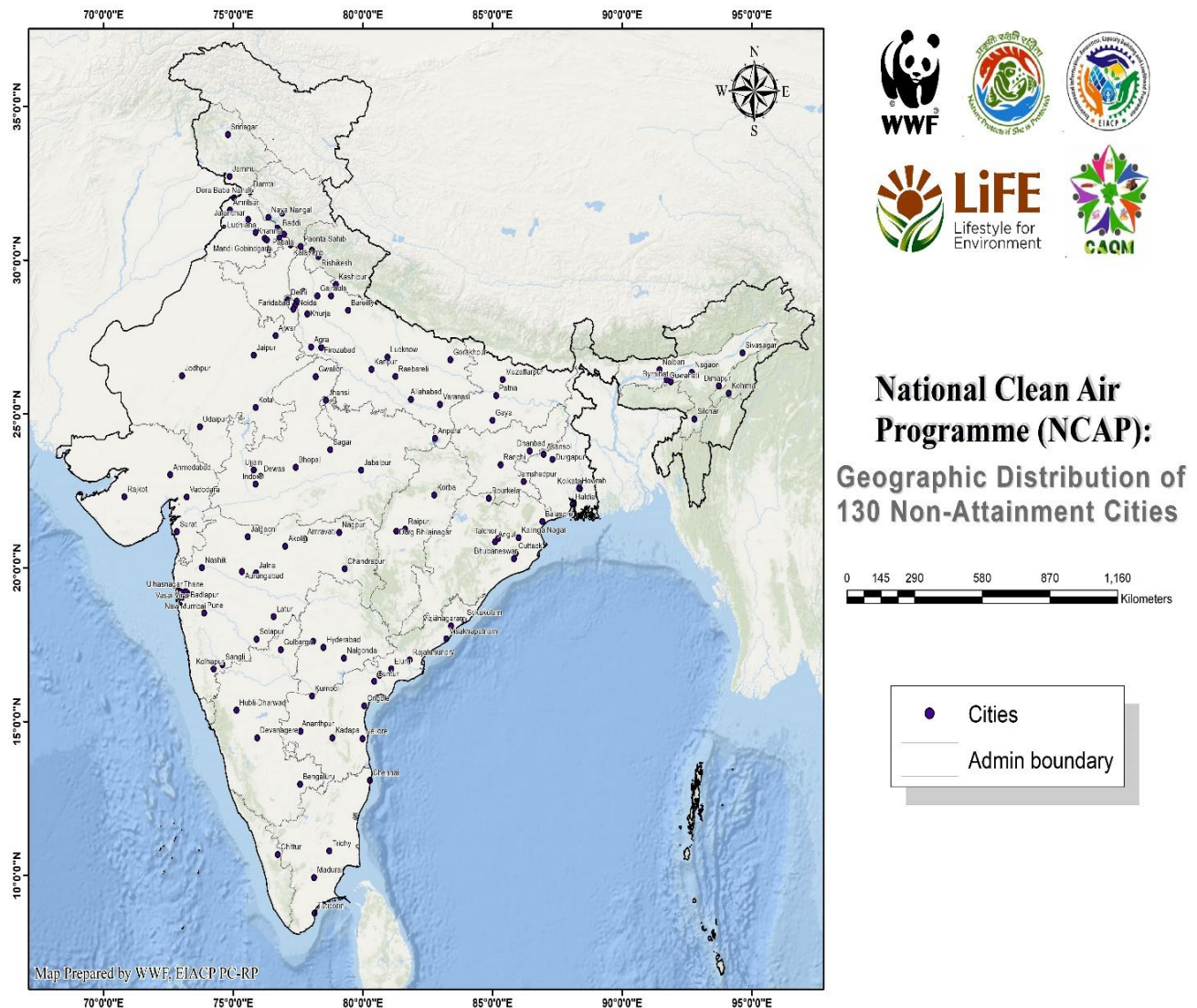
Firecrackers release large amounts of fine particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and toxic metal compounds, along with intense noise. Diwali falls at the start of winter, when cool temperatures and calm winds trap pollutants close to the ground, so emissions from crackers linger for days. This worsens air quality in cities and towns, and is especially harmful for children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with asthma, heart or lung conditions. Crackers also cause burn injuries, fire accidents and serious distress to animals and birds.

Protecting the Gains in Clean Air

MoEF&CC launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to improve air quality in 130 non-attainment and million-plus cities across 24 States and UTs, through national, state and city-level clean air action plans. The results show that sustained action works:

- In FY 2025-26, 108 of the 130 cities recorded a reduction in annual PM₁₀ levels compared with 2017-18
- 72 cities achieved reductions of more than 20%, and 26 cities achieved reductions of more than 40%
- 14 cities met the National Ambient Air Quality Standards in FY 2025-26, compared with only six cities in 2017-18

These improvements are the result of years of effort by governments, industries and citizens. Avoiding firecrackers this Diwali is one of the simplest ways every household can protect these gains and help bring cleaner air to more cities.



Map: Cities covered under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) across States and UTs

Take the Green Diwali Pledge

WWF EIACP invites every citizen, student, teacher and family to take the Green Diwali Pledge:

"I pledge to celebrate a cracker-free Green Diwali. I will not burst firecrackers, and I will encourage my family, friends and neighbours to do the same. I will light diyas and energy-efficient lights, make rangoli with natural colours, avoid single-use plastic, segregate my waste and choose local products. I will do my part for clean air, good health and a pollution-free environment."

Schools, colleges and community groups are encouraged to administer the pledge during morning assemblies, classes, rallies and community meetings, and to document their participation.

Simple Steps Towards a Green Diwali

- **Choose Eco-Friendly Diyas and Candles:** Use traditional earthen diyas and eco-friendly candles, and avoid excessive energy consumption.
- **Go Sustainable with Gifts:** Choose locally made, eco-friendly gifts with minimal packaging.
- **Say No to Firecrackers:** Avoid firecrackers to help reduce air and noise pollution and protect public health.
- **Decorate Naturally:** Make rangolis using natural materials such as flower petals, rice flour and turmeric, and try DIY decorations using upcycled materials.
- **Minimise Waste:** Avoid single-use plastics, reuse decorations, and segregate waste for recycling.
- **Organise Community Events:** Host plantation drives, neighbourhood clean-up activities and environmental awareness walks to encourage collective action.
- **Donate for a Good Cause:** Donate old clothes and unused, usable household items to people in need, promoting reuse and reducing waste.
- **Adopt Greener Mobility:** Walk, cycle or use public or shared transport for festive travel whenever practical.
- **Check Your Air:** Follow the daily Air Quality Index (AQI) on the Central Pollution Control Board's SAMEER app and limit outdoor exposure on poor air days.

Measure Your Carbon Footprint

As part of the campaign, citizens are encouraged to take WWF-India's Carbon Footprint Survey to understand how everyday activities and consumption contribute to their environmental footprint, and where they can adopt more sustainable habits:

[Link: https://wwfindiawebgis.in/Carbon_Footprint/Carbon_Footprint.html](https://wwfindiawebgis.in/Carbon_Footprint/Carbon_Footprint.html)

Participating institutions are encouraged to share the survey link with students, staff, families and local residents.

Share Your Green Diwali Activities

Schools, colleges, EIACP centres, community groups and individuals who take part in the campaign are requested to report their participation and share their outputs through the online form below. Please submit:

- Name of the institution or organisation, city, district and State/UT
- Type of activity conducted (pledge drive, rally, competition, cracker-free neighbourhood initiative, etc.) and date
- Number of participants who took the Green Diwali Pledge
- **Geo-tagged photographs** of the activity (photos showing location coordinates, date and time, taken with GPS/location enabled on the camera or with a GPS map camera app)

- A short description or report of the activity

Google Form link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15hDbjbqZzeo68kNjAxeHQA_SMIQ7lUIPdvCli-gvwdY/viewform

WWF EIACP Programme Centre – Resource Partner

Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme, with the support of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, is organising a nationwide

GREEN DIWALI CAMPAIGN 2026

Say No to Crackers, Yes to Clean Air

Celebrate a Swachh, Shubh & Green Diwali

20 OCTOBER – 8 NOVEMBER 2026

Simple steps towards a Green Diwali

- Light earthen diyas**
Choose diyas and eco-friendly candles; save energy.
- Say no to firecrackers**
Cut air and noise pollution; protect people and animals.
- Decorate naturally**
Rangoli with petals, rice flour and turmeric.
- Gift green, buy local**
Locally made gifts with minimal packaging.
- Minimise waste**
Skip single-use plastic; reuse and segregate waste.
- Travel greener**
Walk, cycle or take public transport; check AQI on SAMEER.

Take the Green Diwali Pledge

"I pledge to celebrate a cracker-free Green Diwali, and to encourage my family, friends and neighbours to do the same."

Schools, colleges, RWAs and communities: hold pledge drives, awareness rallies, competitions and cracker-free neighbourhood initiatives.

SHARE YOUR ACTIVITY
Submit details & geo-tagged photos
Selected entries may be featured on EIACP platforms.

SCAN & CHECK
Measure your Carbon Footprint
A quick WWF-India survey: answer simple questions about your travel, electricity, cooking fuel, water use, waste and diet, and see how your household's daily choices affect the climate.

#GreenDiwali2026 #CrackerFreeDiwali #MissionLIFE #CleanAir

Submissions will help WWF EIACP document the campaign's reach across States and UTs. Selected entries may be featured on EIACP websites and social media platforms.

A Call to Action for Every State and UT

WWF EIACP calls upon State and UT departments, educational institutions, EIACP centres, community organisations and citizens to join the campaign by organising pledge drives, awareness rallies, poster, essay and slogan competitions, and "cracker-free neighbourhood" initiatives.

Participating institutions are requested to share photographs and reports of their activities to help document the campaign's nationwide reach.

The campaign also supports Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and Goal 13 (Climate Action).

This Diwali, let us celebrate with light, not smoke. Say no to crackers, take the pledge, and help give India cleaner air, healthier lives and a pollution-free environment: a truly Swachh, Shubh and Green Diwali.

Issued by:

WWF-India

Programme Centre – Resource Partner (PC-RP)

Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP)

Supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India